Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are highly educated, advanced practice registered nurses who deliver anesthesia to patients in exactly the same ways, for the same types of procedures and just as safely as physician anesthesiologists.

CRNAs have a minimum of 7 to 8 years of education and training specific to nursing and anesthesiology before they are licensed to practice anesthesia.

- **Baccalaureate prepared RN**
- **Critical care nursing experience**
- **24 – 36 Months** Classroom and clinical education and training
- **Master’s or Doctoral Degree** from a COA-accredited nurse anesthesia educational program

By 2025, all anesthesia program graduates will earn doctoral degrees.

CRNAs obtain an average of **3.5 years** of critical care nursing experience before entering a nurse anesthesia program. They are the only anesthesia professionals with this level of critical care experience prior to entering an educational program.

CRNAs are qualified to administer every type of anesthesia in any healthcare setting, including pain management for acute or chronic pain.

- **Manage difficult cases**
- **Use advanced monitoring equipment**
- **Interpret diagnostic information**
- **Respond appropriately in any emergency situation**

Research shows that CRNAs are **85%** less costly to educate and train than anesthesiologists.

**85%** of employers report high satisfaction levels with the preparedness of recently graduated CRNAs.

As the demand for healthcare continues to grow, increasing the number of CRNAs will be key to containing costs while maintaining quality care.

1. Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs
3. Cost Effectiveness Analysis of Anesthesia Providers, Nursing Economics, June 2010
4. Assessment of Recent Graduates Preparedness for Entry into Practice, AANA Journal, November 2013

For more information, visit [future-of-anesthesia-care-today.com](http://future-of-anesthesia-care-today.com)